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North Carolina's University, 1793-1923

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NORTH CAROLINA'S UNIVERSITY, 1793-1923

The University of North Carolina is the oldest state university in America.

In 1776, immediately upon its declaration of independence of Great Britain, the State had its first Constitution drawn by a group of men meeting at Halifax. In that document they wrote "All useful learning shall be duly encouraged and promoted in one or more universities." The beginnings of the institution were in 1793 when the cornerstone of the Old East Building was laid. Now, after a century and a quarter of service, that building is having its interior renovated making its conveniences completely modern, but preserving its historic walls.

A Composite of Schools

"All useful learning" cannot be provided in a single school, so the University has constantly broadened out in its endeavor to live up exactly to the charge laid upon it by the framers of that early constitution. It has become a "university," containing a dozen "colleges":

1. The College of Liberal Arts, in which the student may specialize in language and literature, philosophy political and social sciences, mathematics and natural sciences.
2. The School of Applied Science, offering special work in either chemistry, medicine, or geology.
3. The School of Engineering, offering training for administrative engineering—civil and electrical.
4. The School of Education, in which the student may prepare himself for teaching or administration work in either the public schools, or the institutions of higher learning.
5. The School of Commerce, in which the student may prepare himself for administrative service in any business field.

6. The School of Public Welfare, the effort of the State to train its future citizens so as to make the democratic ideal workable.
7. The Graduate School, for advanced study in any field offering the graduate degrees of Master of Science, Master of Arts, and Doctor of Philosophy.
8. The School of Law, for full training in the law, and offering the degree of LL.B., and the combined degree of A.B. and LL.B. Its regular course consists of three years study. It also has a summer session, offering lectures by some of the ablest legal minds in the State.
9. The School of Medicine, offering the first two years of the medical course. It has facilities for classes of about 40, and has been recognized as one of the best two year schools in the entire country.
10. The School of Pharmacy. It offers full training in Pharmacy, and awards the degrees of Graduate in Pharmacy, Doctor of Pharmacy, and Pharmaceutical Chemist.
11. The Summer School, offering normal and collegiate work during the summer quarter. Two normal school sessions of six weeks each are conducted.
12. The Bureau of Extension, which makes available for any individual, or group in North Carolina any service which the University is able to render. It now offers a wide range of courses by correspondence.

This educational institution of the State isn't called a "university" because it is euphoniously more pleasant than "college," but because, measured by the most exacting standards, it is a University—a composite of colleges. It is a University that takes its rank as among the best in the entire country.

Wide Opportunity Significant

A large portion of the work in either of these "colleges" is the same as that of some other. They are therefore closely interlocked. This makes it possible for the State to provide the widest opportunity at a low cost.

It is also possible for the student who enters college undecided as to his ultimate vocation, or the work he wishes to take, to work

out "on the ground" his own collegiate career. If the student should be undecided as to whether he wishes to enroll in the B.S. Commerce course, or the Academic Course taking as his major interest Economics and Commerce he is able here to enroll in either and after he has spent several months, or even a year in actual residence he can come to a decision without the loss of time or money. His decision can then have in its make-up actual contact with one particular course, wide information from the teachers in his department and the department to which he is thinking of transferring, and information from other students.

Frequently this sort of opportunity is not appreciated by one coming from high school. Too often we find young men "straining at the bit" trying to make decisions for themselves for their entire college course in advance of their entering. This is a handicap. If further training means anything to a young man it means that as he goes forward he is more and more able to settle questions for himself. Why then negate one of the advantages of going to college, by "settling everything" in advance? Go to college to grow to full stature, and not merely to try to execute preconceived notions about things. Opportunity to do his is provided by the University.

University Standing Recognized

When a student wins a degree from the University of North Carolina he has a "trade mark" that is accepted throughout the world. It isn't a local brand, that can circulate in only the immediate neighborhood.

The recent unanimous election of the University to the Association of American Universities is a recognition of its high standing by its own peers. There are only two southern institutions in this association—Virginia and North Carolina. Virginia was a charter member, thus the University of North Carolina is the only Southern institution ever elected to membership in this group—small group of the greatest educational institutions of America. There are numerous other instances of the accepted high standing of this University. Sons of North Carolina are entitled to just as wide and fine an educational opportunity as are the sons of any other commonwealth, and this the State has provided at Chapel Hill.

Requirements for Admission

Admission may be gained either by certification, or by examination. Admission without examination may be gained by presenting a certificate showing the completion of fifteen units from an accredited high school. These fifteen units represent graduation from a regular four year high school course. In order to be a candidate for a degree the student must not only have a certificate showing fifteen units of credit, but must meet the specific requirements laid down by the school or college in which that degree is conferred.

Since the University is a State institution, mature persons twenty-one years of age or over who cannot meet the regular requirements for admission, may be admitted for special work provided they present to the Entrance Committee evidence that they have such training as will enable them to profit by the instruction in the School in which they seek admission.

Women students are admitted to the Graduate and Professional schools, to the two upper classes, and by special action in each individual case women who are residents in Chapel Hill may be admitted to any work in the institution. In each instance, of course, they must meet the regular requirements for admission already laid down.

A Growing Institution

Although the University has attained a high standing in the higher educational world, it isn't a fixed institution. Each new year, each improvement, every unit of growth lays upon it new difficulties. It is constantly growing to meet these new situations. It is keenly alive to its shortcomings and striving ceaselessly to eliminate them. Its problem today with 2,000 students is in a large measure different from what it was five years ago with scarcely more than half that number. Its problem five years from today with 3,000 students will not be entirely what it is today.

In addressing the University alumni on June 12th, President Chase said in part:

"It has occurred to all of you, I know, that the problem of personal contacts, that solves itself in a small community, must be worked out in a planful way in a large group. It is my firm belief that *no individual need be lost in the machinery of a large institution*; that the problem is one that *can be solved by intelligently organizing for its solution*. We are making, I am convinced, very helpful beginnings by the development of inter-dormitory athletics and dormitory organization, by the work of the Dean of Students, which has this year centered especially on freshmen, by the social program of the Y. M. C. A., by the conversion of Memorial Hall into a usable chapel, and by the work of 49 volunteer members of the faculty who have acted as advisors, each to a group of freshmen, with results that have been distinctly encouraging. We are making next year the beginnings . . . to furnish to students systematic advice on vocations. We have given to all freshmen this year, and will continue, mental tests that will be of increasing value as they are continued year by year: in short, as we make some progress in putting together the resources of a large institution to help individuals find themselves, I am more and more of the opinion that the large institution can carry, if only it sets its mind to it, real helpfulness to the individual, in things outside the classroom, just as far, and perhaps farther, than can the small college."

Before the "problem of size" really becomes acute in Chapel Hill the University is working it out in the most thoroughgoing way of any institution in this entire section of the country. Already other institutions are handling student bodies of from 8,000 to 10,000 population in a successful manner.

Fourth Quarter

Henceforth the University plant will be in operation for twelve months each year. During the fourth quarter, running from June to September, a student may pursue regular undergraduate or graduate work; or normal school work may be had in either of the two six-weeks summer sessions which divide equally the fourth quarter.

Student Activities

Extra-curriculum student activities of every worthwhile character are handsomely provided for at the University, whether

a student be interested in dramatics, music, athletics, forensics, newspaper or magazine work, fraternities, etc. These student activities, when properly handled, have come to be recognized as of great value to the student. Athletics which some have charged are swallowing up the undergraduate life of the student are being attacked in a thoughtful manner, with the ultimate good of the largest number of students the principal aim. Something of the point of view which dominates our coaches may be gleaned from the following quotations from a letter from Mr. R. A. Fetzer, Athletic Director, which he has recently mailed.

“. . . I wish to remind you of the striking similarity between athletics and real life. Success is not a “mere happening,” an accident; and the “lucky breaks” or “hard luck reverses” *are usually the result of our ability or inability to take advantage of the opportunities, whether it is in the game or in life.*

“We have tried to stress the mental attitude as an important factor in athletic success, and yet we have hardly begun to realize the possibilities in this field. . . . Our only hope for continued and increased athletic success lies in the utilization of *every ounce of available material* and the development of a “spirit” that will rise to overcome any handicap. . . . Will you put your whole heart into the realization of this ideal? Be loyal, enthusiastic, unselfish, considerate, liberal, patient, persistent and determined. . . . Check your daily habits, see that you are respecting the laws of nature, not burning the candle at both ends. . . . Eat wholesome food, sleep enough, preferably from eleven to seven. Take some definite exercise every day—physical work, walking, running, tennis, swimming, etc., and take a few minutes of deep breathing exercise night and morning. . . .”

The standards of student life at Chapel Hill are a remarkable tribute to the University and to the people of North Carolina. The system of student self-government is unique in the entire country—self-government in the finest sense of that fine term. Not a system of student courts; not a constitutionally organized student association, but a place where every man is accepted as a gentleman on the assumption that he carries within himself the standards,—or the ambition for those standards that will make him live above the exactions of a law which can express only a general average, where a man is accepted as the finest thing that

God has created and not to be subordinated to system. After a weeks visit with University students, Mr. Sherwood Eddy, of Yale University, who has spent the major portion of his life studying on four continents, said that with one exception this is the most seriously thoughtful and democratic group of students he has ever known.

Costs No More

This wide educational opportunity costs no more than it would cost to attend an institution where the opportunities for a student are not even comparable to those at the University. In fact, this opportunity at North Carolina's University is not beyond the reach of any determined young man who is capable of doing the work.

There is no standard of expenditures that a student must live up to in order to be "a good fellow." Out of a student body of a little less than 2,000 for the year just passed, 700 students were earning their college expenses in whole or in part. This figure represents the efforts of young men who could not otherwise attend college. They do not include the son of the wealthy, doting father who "is lending" his son money on which to attend college. *These men performed 67 varieties of labor in Chapel Hill in order to remain at the University.*

The University offers, in brief, an opportunity for the man of wealth to use his money wisely; it offers to the man without money but with worth, ability, and determination an opportunity to complete his college course under the most favored circumstances at a very minimum of cost. The writer knows of one student at Chapel Hill who spent thousands of dollars in one year (which is usually unwise); and he knows of another who remained here five years, winning two degrees, working his entire way through the University and left with thousands of dollars in the bank! (Those interested in securing work to help themselves through the University should address Dean F. F. Bradshaw, Chairman of the Student Employment Committee.)

The University has loan funds available for the students of limited financial means.

Scholarships

The President of the University has within his gift a limited number of privately endowed scholarships which pay tuition in the academic department, amounting only to \$60.00 per year. Under State law, tuition in the academic department is given to those who agree to teach two years after leaving college, and to sons of ministers. The importance of a scholarship, however, seems to be greatly exaggerated in the minds of parents and prospective students.

Students who decide to go to college should give the most thoughtful attention to their choice of a college. Too frequently trivial considerations play an important part in the decision of this all important question. A difference of twenty-five dollars in the cost; the promise of a place that pays fifty dollars a year; the promise of a scholarship worth twenty dollars a quarter will frequently determine the question without thought of possible difference in *the quality and worth of what the student is seeking*. A student cannot give up the big, permanent things of his thorough training for the particular thing he wishes to do for a scholarship, or a small job. Your own fine training and development is the paramount consideration!

Housing University Students

University students are housed in University dormitories, fraternity houses, and homes and cottages in Chapel Hill.

Already (August 6th, 1923) the dormitories are filled, some vacancies will occur on account of failure on the part of those holding rooms to return to college. The fraternity houses are filled by the fraternities themselves, usually after the fall initiations which are held at the opening of college. Over this space the University can exercise no control, although this space accommodates about 200 students. The space for rent in private homes is handled directly by the owner with those who are to occupy the rooms. The University gladly acts as mediator, bringing these openings to the attention of students seeking rooms.

A survey of the rooming space of the entire town which is just complete indicates that the University will be able to accom-

modate the number it estimates will apply in September, but the *available space is going to be taxed to the limit*. It is not possible to definitely assign all space in advance as some of the people of the town prefer to wait and see those who are to occupy space in their home. This desire is quite understandable since the students virtually become a part of the family as there are no large apartment houses. As already indicated, some additional space is held open by the fraternities awaiting their fall initiations. Usually then, *the University has been able to place from about fifty to seventy students each fall who have not been able to make definite arrangements before reaching Chapel Hill*.

The University is very anxious to accommodate all those who seek admission this fall. It will greatly facilitate the work in Chapel Hill, and contribute to your own comfort if you can make your decision as early as possible and file your application. This is said with no desire to "scare you" into the University. It is a simple request for co-operation which will enable the University to avoid the confusion and delay usually incident to the opening of college in a small town where all available space has been used for the last several years.

Location and Atmosphere

Chapel Hill, the seat of the State's University, is a most delightful town of 2,000 people. It is located twelve miles southwest of Durham, jitneys making connection with all trains at Durham. The town is almost exactly the geographic center of the State.

Life in Chapel Hill is almost ideal. The village has grown up around the University and its needs. Although set apart from the distractions, crime, and hindrances of a large center, we are yet in close contact with the outside world—only eighteen hours from New York City, one and one-half from Raleigh, and six from Charlotte.

The religious needs of the community are handsomely provided for by the activities of our own Y. M. C. A. and five churches—Baptist, Presbyterian, Methodist, Episcopal and Christian. Five years ago the Christian Church opened its new

building here; the Presbyterians two years ago; the Baptists during the current year; and both the Methodists and Episcopalian are to build or rebuild during the coming few months. The need for these churches is created largely by the presence of University students and faculty, and naturally these receive the large attention of resident pastors and church workers.

Registration for the fall quarter will be held on September 18th and 19th. Lectures begin on September 20th.

The University welcomes the opportunity to be of service. If there is further information which you desire, whether you are preparing to become a student or not, we shall appreciate the courtesy if you will allow us to answer your inquiries about rooms, specific courses, correspondence work, loans, or anything connected with the University of North Carolina. Address Daniel L. Grant, office of the President, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

UNIVERSITY OF N.C. AT CHAPEL HILL



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